

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.457]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Missouri State Penitentiary Postcard Collection

Abstract: Postcards featuring images of the interior and exterior of the Missouri State Penitentiary, aka MSP.

Extent: 4 Postcards

Physical Description: Postcards

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: TIF

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: Standard copyright rules apply

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; *Missouri State Penitentiary Collection*, Record Group 998.457; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Purchase. Accession #2004-0108

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by EW on 03/07/2018. Updated by EW on 03/25/2021.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Missouri State Penitentiary was the first penal institution west of the Mississippi River. It opened its doors in 1836. Over the next 170 years, the Penitentiary grounds grew until the facility eventually closed in 2004. The building is now open for tours. Hundreds of thousands of inmates have passed through the gates of “The Walls.” The Missouri State Archives has several types of records available for genealogists and historical researchers.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS297 Mark Schreiber Photograph Collection
MS329 Alice Fast Postcard Collection
MS360 Dr. Arnold G. Parks Jefferson City Postcard Collection
MS369 Bob Priddy Collection
MS390 Ann Noe Collection
MS398 Missouri Postcard Collection
MS433 Dr. Joseph Summers Collection
RG114 Department of Corrections
RG213 Missouri State Penitentiary

Harry A. Henke/Hanke's MSP Register can be found online here:
<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/msp/Detail.aspx?id=50645>.

Additional External Resources

Missouri State Penitentiary Museum: <https://www.missouripentours.com/museum>.

The Missouri History Museum in St. Louis maintains the following collection: [#P0141 Penal Institutions](#)

The State Historical Society of Missouri has many collections concerning the Penitentiary:
<https://shsmo.org/>.

POSTCARDS, 1923-1931

Arrangement: None

Scope and Content

This small collection contains postcards featuring images of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), exterior and interior shots. All images have been digitized as TIFs and are available on Manuscript DVD #7 in Reference.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	203	66	Colorized postcard captioned, "Lower Dining Hall and Kitchen, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Mo." Shows one inmate in striped pants next to a table. All the tables have been set. A few African American cooks are visible in the background. Printed by TC Co., Chicago. Published by Sam'l H. Smith & Co., Jefferson City, MO.	n.d.
	203	67	Colorized postcard captioned, "Entrance Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Mo.—2." Shows the main entrance on Lafayette Street. The hospital building (red) is visible on the left behind the wall. Published by E.C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee, WI. (See also MS369 Bob Priddy Collection MS369_P133.)	c1923
	203	68	Colorized postcard captioned, "Dining Hall and Grounds, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Mo.—4." View of the dining hall on the grounds of the MSP. Part of the courtyard is visible. The pathways are lined with flowers and there is a water feature on the left. Published by E.C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee, WI. (See also MS369 Bob Priddy Collection MS369_P136.)	n.d.
	203	69	Black and white picture postcard captioned, "MO. STATE PRISON CELL. H. A. HENKE 29737." Image shows a highly-decorated cell containing curtains, furniture, a photograph, typewriter, bed, rugs and more. The inmate was Harry A. Hanke / Henke was convicted of 1 st degree murder in St. Louis County in 1926. He was sentenced to 20 years, but only served until 1931. Photographer unknown.	1926-1931